



King County

Department of Community and Human Services

Developmental Disabilities Division

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Natural Environments Leadership Team Meeting July 10, 2006

Participants: Kevin Bernadt, KCDDD Board
Jon Botten, Children's Therapy Center
Jane Campbell, King County DDD
Jane Dobrovolny, Northwest Center
Sandy Duncan, CHAP
Lisa Greenwald, Kindering Center
Betsy McAlister, King County Parent Coalition
Jana Pettit, Wonderland
Susan Sandall, UW-EEU
Magan Cromar, Encompass
Katie Vornbrock, Hearing Speech & Deafness
Jan Wrathall, King County DDD

Minutes: Elaine Goddard, King County DDD

Facilitator: David Wertheimer, Kelly Point Partners

JUSTIFICATIONS DOCUMENT:

Jane rewrote the justification document, incorporating input from the previous meeting. The group reviewed the document and continued to discuss issues.

There were questions related to the Guidance at the end of the Justification section. It was confusing whether the guidance was part of the justification. To clarify this, it was agreed to change the formatting and add the word "policy" in bold/caps above the justification and have the word "guidance" also in bold/caps, to indicate that guidance is not part of the justification policy.

Susan asked that guidance also be included on what to do when the resources of a program are exhausted. Jan indicated that any time an agency is over loaded they should refer cases to CHAP. This will help push the issue up to the system level. The County may need to build additional infrastructure to help ensure that the provision of services is adequate. The County and providers need to continue to work on issues like this to help improve the system as a whole.

Clarification was asked for on the specialized equipment piece. Rather than listing examples, the group would like it noted that specialized equipment should be looked at on an individual basis, and must meet the four standards listed on the first page. It was suggested that the line "examples of acceptable justifications" be removed and that that paragraph should be included

with the upper part. Jane and Jan will rework this paragraph and the group will revisit it at the next meeting.

ACTION PLANNING MATRIX:

The Action Planning Matrix is intended to help move from discussion to implementation of natural environments. David referred the group back to the Triangle Diagram showing the four components of system change and passed out copies of the Matrix which was revised based on feedback at the previous meeting.

It was explained that responsibility for the family supports goals and action steps belong with the system, not the families themselves. It was noted that all the examples in action step 1.1.1 are formal, appointment based, and not naturally occurring. The group would like to add a goal to ensure families have plenty of opportunities for informal interactions. Informal interactions cannot be formalized, but the group recognized a need for opportunities for families to meet on an informal basis. Susan would like to add a question in the family survey whether families are getting enough opportunities to meet and talk with other families in an informal setting. Also, some parents look at services as providing respite though that is not the intent of the services. Some providers offer informal respite services for families. The issue will need to be addressed system-wide.

It was agreed at the last meeting that each component of the system must complete their piece of the matrix. The County will do its piece and ask providers to do theirs. Some sections are provider or county specific, but other issues cross. The County will address sections for Policies and Funding, Program Structure, and Family Support; and providers will address sections for Provider Agency, Program Structure, and Family Support. Each agency needs to look at the parent piece and determine how they can support them in the change. Cultural issues will also need to be addressed.

Because the County is the driver of the change it was agreed that the Triangle Diagram and the sections of the Planning Matrix would be reversed. The matrix sections will be:

1. Policies and Funding (County)
2. Provider Agency
3. Program Structure
4. Family Supports.

David asked how the matrix could be presented to agencies to help them understand what is needed. It was agreed that the County and the NELT will present the Planning Matrix to agencies at the next Provider Meeting on July 21. In order to help bring providers up to date and explain their role the County will provide the following:

- Definition / Context
- Justification Draft
- Summary document
- Introductions and process
- Timeframe on when due
- Some of County piece will need to be done to help set up the timeframe

TA GRANTS:

King County will be funding more grants for Technical Assistance to help agencies implement natural environments. Jon asked for more assistance/guidance from the County on what the County is looking for in the proposals. There is a need for some consistency between programs, and there is concern that without guidance each agency will go off in their own direction. He would like some criteria for what the County would consider an acceptable program. The County does not want to dictate how agencies do it, but wants to help agencies find answers on how they can do it. The agency request for grant needs to show that the agency is intent on changing practices. The money must be utilized to implement natural environments.

The County and providers need to continue to collaborate. Open communication is needed and agencies should share what they are doing to implement natural environments.

NEXT STEPS:

The County will prepare and report on the Leadership Team and Planning Matrix at the next provider meeting. It was suggested that agencies be given a chance to submit questions on guidance before completing the Matrix. The following schedule was agreed to:

7/21 – Introduce Matrix at provider meeting

7/28 – Agencies submit questions re: guidance to the County

8/7 – Guidance questions answered and County section of Matrix complete

8/31 – Agency plans submitted to KC

9/8 – LT meeting to look at trends in agency strategies.

The next NELT meeting will be August 7, at 9:30 am. The County section of the Matrix will be presented.